

Register results

The following actions have been taken by Federal agencies. CONSUMER REGISTER has previously summarized all as proposals. The extent of consumer comment on each item is reported when such information is available.

● On Oct. 22, Food & Drug Administration (FDA) delayed a decision on the new drug application for the injectable contraceptive medroxyprogesterone acetone & has delayed the effective date (Oct. 15) of the order until further notice. FDA is considering safety aspects of the drug. The issues will be reviewed at a public hearing, which has not yet been set. Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 30, page 38226; Sept. 12, page 32907; March 29, page 11680; Oct. 10, 1973, page 27940. CONSUMER REGISTER: Oct. 1; Nov. 1, 1973.

● On Jan. 7, 1975, Food & Drug Administration (FDA) will permit the use of artificial coloring in "french dressing" & will require that all ingredients used in the dressing be declared on the label. FDA received 12 consumer comments & 1 industry comment. The comments dealt with concern about allergic reactions from color additives & with ingredient labeling. One comment opposed listing all ingredients until the public is educated as to which food additives are dangerous. Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 8, page 39554; Aug. 21, 1973, page 22490. CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 15, 1973.

● On Nov. 17, U.S. Postal Service (USPS) stopped delivering mail that is not stamped, but it made 1 temporary, partial suspension of the regulation: From now until Feb. 16, 1975, USPS will forward postage-due merchandise to the addressee if the sender cannot be identified by examining the outside of the parcel. Some mail order companies were afraid they would lose large quantities of parcels during the coming holiday season if USPS sent packages to the "dead" parcel post branches. Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 19, page 40589; Oct. 1, page 35387. CONSUMER REGISTER: Oct. 15.

Unleaded gas

Dec. 12 is deadline for comments on Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to prohibit retailers from selling unleaded gasoline from a pump that is contaminated with lead above the Federal standard.

EPA said the proposed regulation would help the agency make certain that no contaminated gasoline is sold to cars requiring unleaded gasoline. (Leaded gas introduced into an emission control device in several tanksful renders the device ineffective in a short time, causing pollutants coming from the car to exceed Federal standards.)

To expedite the fuel testing for lead contamination, EPA also proposes to use a field test developed in cooperation with the American Society of Testing Materials (ASTM). The field test, however, would be confirmed by a laboratory test prior to charging a party with a violation of the regulations for offering contaminated unleaded gasoline for sale.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 12, page 39982. Send comments to Director, Mobile Source Enforcement Division, Environmental Protection Agency, Washington, DC 20460.

Car insurance

Dec. 16 is deadline for comments on National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) proposal to require car dealers to tell prospective buyers the differences in car insurance costs for various makes & models of cars.

NHTSA is conducting studies to provide a method for rating cars according to damageability & crashworthiness. NHTSA will give this information to car dealers.

The regulation would give the consumer an opportunity to save money in premiums for insurance for property damage & medical bills if he knows about the damageability & crashworthiness of the car he is planning to

buy. A car more likely to be damaged—or demolished—in an accident would have higher insurance rates. Present insurance rates do not reflect the differences in damageability & crashworthiness to a significant degree.

NHTSA is particularly interested in receiving comments from the insurance industry & consumers on the best way to present comparative costs.

NHTSA will issue a final regulation by Feb. 1, 1975, as required by the Information & Cost Savings Act. NHTSA does not at this time know when the insurance cost figures will be ready for distribution by auto dealers.

Details—*Federal Register*: Nov. 4, page 38912. Send comments to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Docket Section, Room 5108, Washington, DC 20590.

Animals on planes

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has amended its regulations to require that containers carrying animals be (1) securely attached to the plane's cargo compartment to prevent shifting, (2) protected to prevent crushing by other cargo under normal flight & ground conditions (usually by webbing or partitions) & (3) placed in cargo compartment in a way to be certain the animal gets air. The amendment became effective Oct. 18.

FAA issued the amendment as a proposal on March 11. The agency received more than 150 comments on the proposal. Most of the comments concerned the safety of animals being transported by air. Other comments covered problems of excessive noise, temperature extremes & feeding & watering of animals during flight or while awaiting flight or pickup. FAA expects to take these matters up in future studies. FAA, Agriculture Dept. & Civil Aeronautics Board have formed an interagency committee to consider problems of transporting animals by air.

Details—*Federal Register*: Aug. 19, page 29917; March 11, page 9456.

Noisy trucks

Effective Oct. 25, 1975, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will require trucks weighing over 10,000 pounds to be equipped with mufflers & quieter tires to reduce highway noise levels. This & other standards are authorized by the Noise Control Act of 1972, which seeks to reduce environmental noise pollution.

EPA estimates 70,000 out of a million trucks now in use will have to be equipped with new mufflers & new tires to meet the noise standard. This new equipment will cost about \$135 a truck.

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 29, page 38208; July 3, page 24579; Feb. 1, 1973, page 3086. CONSUMER REGISTER: Sept. 15; March 15, 1973.

Quiet trucks

Dec. 16 is deadline for Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) proposal to require manufacturers of all trucks weighing over 10,000 pounds to make the trucks' engines quieter. As is the case for existing trucks (see "Noisy trucks"), this proposed standard is authorized by the Noise Control Act of 1972.

Manufacturers would have to start decreasing truck noise with production of the 1977 models. EPA says that by 1983 trucks running at low speed should make no more noise than a new car. EPA says that medium & heavy duty trucks weighing more than 10,000 pounds are a major source of highway & street noise.

Details—*Federal Register*: Oct. 30, page 38337. Send comments to Office of Noise Abatement & Control, Docket No. ONAC 74-1, 2921 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 20460.

Federal Register:

The Office of the Federal Register is asking users of the *Federal Register* & the *Code of the Federal Regulations* for their views on the effectiveness of the documents. The *Federal Register* makes available to the public the various proposed & final regulations & legal notices issued by Federal agencies.

The Office of the Federal Register wants to make the documents it publishes more understandable & wants to "identify & correct any existing Federal regulations which are obsolete, unnecessarily wordy or unclearly stated."

The office has been publishing a form on the back page of the *Federal Register* on selected days during October & November. One part of the form reads: "For the following reasons I found it difficult to understand the document from _____ (agency) in column _____, page _____ of the _____ issue." The reader is asked to check a box giving his reasons, such as "only technical language was used; document contained long & difficult sentences, or preamble did not contain a clear & concise explanation of the document's purpose. Another part of the form gives the reader an opportunity to comment on a certain document that would impose unnecessary or unreasonable requirements on persons affected by the regulation. Finally, the reader can suggest how parts of the documents can be rewritten.

The Office of the Federal Register is offering another service: Persons can call 202-523-5022 for a recording of highlights of important items to be published in the next day's *Federal Register*. For example, one of the items highlighted for Nov. 19 was "Postal Service rules to return mail endorsed 'Returned for Postage'." Anyone interested in details on this ruling could go to his local library for a copy of *Federal Register*. Consumers in Washington, DC, can go to the *Federal Register* office to see a copy. Details—Send comments to Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration, Washington, DC 20408.

NOTE: Since CONSUMER REGISTER is a digest of selected items from *Federal Register*, we would also like to receive your views on the effectiveness of CONSUMER REGISTER. You may address your comments to CONSUMER REGISTER, Office of Consumer Affairs, Washington, DC 20201, or telephone 202-245-6877.

This listing, prepared by Marion Q. Ciaccio, is intended only as summary coverage of selected *Federal Register* items deemed of particular interest to consumers, & it does not affect the legal status or effect of any document required or authorized to be published pursuant to Section 5 of Federal Register Act as amended, 44 U.S.C. 1505. *Federal Register* is published Monday through Friday (except Federal Government holidays) by Office of the Federal Register, National Archives & Records Service, General Services Administration. Subscription is \$5 a month or \$45 a year & may be ordered from Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402. Superintendent also sells copies of *Federal Register* for 75¢ each. Free copies of *Federal Register* may be available in libraries.

